

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session

Tuesday, July 1, 2008 with the following present:

Mike Spearman, Vice Chairman

Linda Joseph, Commissioner

Ben Gibbons, County Attorney

Wendi Maez, Co-Administrator

Lyn Zimmer, Co-Administrator

Melinda Myers, Secretary and Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Pace was representing the BOCC in Denver testifying at the CO Oil & Gas Commission.

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Spearman at 9:02 A.M.

Under Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

1. Andrew Archuleta USFS will not be here.
2. Move Clerk to 10:00 time slot.

Joseph moved to approve the agenda as amended. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Reading and approval of minutes:

Joseph moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2008 as amended. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Joseph moved to approve the minutes of June 24, 2008 Special meeting and Oil & Gas Regulations Public Hearing, as amended. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Review of Mail:

1. **Natural Energy Resources Company** sent a letter explaining a breakthrough solution for the United States of America Black Canyon of the Gunnison Reserved Water Right Case. (6/17/08)
2. **Colorado State Historical Fund** is offering a free presentation throughout Colorado. There will be a presentation in Alamosa on Friday July 25th at 10am. Please register ahead due to limited space. (6/17/08)

3. **United States Department of Agriculture** sent a letter planning to implement a roadside hazard tree and fuel reduction program. (6/18/08)
4. **Hazardous Materials Technician** is having a Hazwoper Refresher in September if interested you can register online. (6/19/08)
5. **Rio Grande Water Conservation District** has sent their 2008 Ground Water Table Measurements. (6/19/08)
6. **Gunnison Conservation District** sent a letter on their Long Range Plan that will expire Dec 31, 2008 as they are developing a new 5-year plan. (6/24/08)

Introduction of Guests: Matie Belle Lakish – Crestone Eagle; Robert Philleo, Philip Madonna, Tony Ross, Matt Hobbs, Tim Scanlan & Don Geddes – Planning Commission; Myron Smith, Wade Collins and Twyla Walker – Old Cow Town; Jason Surface – DOW; Jackie Stephens, Erin Minks – Salazar representative; Julie Nunley- Alamosa Bus Company.

Commissioners' Reports-Updates of Meetings:

Sam Pace sent in this report:

- June 18 - Attended a site visit to Old Cow Town.
- June 19 - Attended a court hearing on tickets issued for alleged behavior at Democrats meeting in Center.
- June 20 - Attended annexation task force meeting in Crestone
- June 21 - Attended KIAMIA ceremony and served pancakes and sausages. It was a lightly attended gathering.
- June 25 - Attended a presentation on listing historical sites for preservation in Colorado. This was done for the Saguache area and Saguache Town Board at the Gunbarrel Restaurant.
- June 26 - Attended an adult protection meeting at Social Services in Saguache.

Linda Joseph reported:

- June 18 - Completed a site visit to the Old Cow Town site with Land Use Director Wendi Maez, and Commissioner Pace. Clarified locations of various features and uses. Significant corrections were made to the depictions in the handout given to the BOCC by Matt Hobbs - on behalf of Tschirky & Koltes. Discussed the weed issue with Myron Smith. He is treating the henbane and reports a noticeable reduction in plants this year from last.
- June 19 - Contacted Kathryn Van Note to discuss the assignment to begin researching and compiling solar industry information to assist with preparation of BLM EIS scoping comments by July 15, and toward renewable regulation development.
- Contacted Maria Mondragon Valdez to inquire about her research in the solar

field, and the possibility of receiving a research summary.

- Drafted County Update for newspapers. Shared this and minutes with Matie Belle Lakish for her first column reporting County News for the Crestone Eagle.
- June 21 - Attended the Kia/Mia event, which only drew a small crowd (50-70), with people coming and going. The various ceremonies, presentations and music went on, and there was a flyover by 2 Black Hawk Helicopters.
 - Had the opportunity to connect with Don Geddes, who mentioned there is a meeting of Ken Salazar's SLV advisory Economic Development group we appointed him to, on July 1st and he will get on the BOCC agenda for a later meeting in July.
 - Also had the opportunity to speak with Steph Steffens. A very strong fundraising effort is underway. ScSEED is applying for an El Pomar discretionary grant with emphasis on the Town of Saguache Revitalization project, which could be completed in such a way that it could be replicated elsewhere in the Valley. Conejos County in collaboration with their non-profit partner CONCEPTS (ScSEED catalyzed this group, which is ScSEED's counterpart in Conejos County) is pursuing an El Pomar grant also, to develop a template so that their process of implementing biofuels can be replicated elsewhere in the Valley. Both ScSEED and CONCEPTS will include in their requests a line item that will bring Donna Wehe of the Small Business office for some hours to consult with businesses in the County seats of both counties. Road & Bridge Dept should be kept in the loop on how this progresses, for the Biofuel possibilities. These grants will be announced and awarded in early 09.
- June 23 – Attended the Valley Commissioners meeting, on Valley Transportation, Valley Power Authority, and a brief SLV RETAC report on issues with delivery of ambulance service in the Valley.
- June 24 - Attended Public Hearing on the draft O&G regulations, and afternoon BOCC work session.
- RETAC O&G comments were invited and Joseph has received several responses. These need to be organized, as applicable to the testimony before the COGCC on July 15.
- June 25 - Attended the CO Preservation Inc. presentation in Saguache.
- June 26 - Had a call from Maria Mondragon to clarify the report she could compile from her research, which will address issues associated with impacts of large scale concentrated solar installations and transmission lines. She will include citations and also draw out key points in a bullet list.

- June 30 - Attended the Dept. Head Meeting for the first 30 minutes to speak about the changes to the personnel forms and process. Proposed a 7 month timeline to work together to implement all the personnel forms and a proposed BOCC/Dept. Head working retreat this fall.
- Checked in with Kenny Bertin, WSB on web/IT progress. He restarted the transfer process for saguachecounty.net, and is waiting on the previous host to complete it. The Saguache Tourism website will be completed and ready for review this week. 6 email lists are set-up and just need to be implemented. Some staff members are not yet set up with their .gov addresses, and others are, but are still using their old addresses.

Mike Spearman reported:

- June 17 – took Dr. Penley on a tour of Sun Edison Solar Facility. The operators of the plant had underestimated the amount of solar energy that would be produced and had to reconfigure some components.
- June 23 – Attended the Valley Commissioners meeting with other Commissioners and Co-Administrators.
- June 24 – Attended Public Hearing on the draft O&G regulations, and afternoon BOCC work session.
- June 24 – Attended a meeting in La Garita to form a fire district.
- June 27 – Attended the DRG meeting and will schedule a tour of Conejos County canola biodiesel set-up.

Lynn Zimmer and Wendi Maez - CO-Administrators:

Spearman moved to accept the Steffens Plumbing bid of \$78,450 for the heating system in the Courthouse. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

- Steffens Plumbing bid for the courthouse heating system is \$78,450 which is in the renovation fund balance. They want to start as soon as possible.
- Budget workshop dates have been changed to August 6 & 7 and an additional day for review before presentation to the Board will be August 27. Elected officials would like to know if the board member that will be attending the meeting will be running the meeting or just observing. It was clarified that Commissioners are attending to make themselves available for questions to go to the BOCC. It was agreed that Commissioners would attend for lunch and time after for any questions and discussion.
- Elected official/department meeting was attended by both Maez & Zimmer. The departments and Administration will meet quarterly on the Third Monday starting

on September 22. Discussed communication issues, emergency preparedness, job descriptions and new employee orientation.

- Gunnison Water Shed Weed Commission appointment. We have had no one request appointment to this board. The Board suggested Administration contact Larry Ward – County Weed Coordinator.
- The Geographic Name change for Kit Carson Mount to Mount Crestone and Tranquility Peak was advertised and the comments received were forwarded to the Board.
- Andrew Archuleta from Rio Grande will not be able to attend today's meeting. This is Rio Grande National Forest Service 100th year anniversary. They are having open house from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. The Board is invited to attend and have refreshments. Spearman and Joseph will stop by at the end of the day.
- The letter of support to the Colorado Cattlemen's Ag Lands Trust was signed.

Break

Melinda Myers - County Clerk:

Spearman moved to adopt the resolution as amended to close the Clerk and Records office on August 12 and November 4 to all services except election activities. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

- Consideration of office closure on Election Days except for election activities resolution was presented.

Wendi Maez - Land Use Administrator:

- Maez will send all the information available on the Rock Creek Studio to Attorney Gibbons so he can get resolution on the Master Plan completion.

Spearman moved to approve the Old Cow Town Conditional Use Permit with the conditions specified by Saguache County Planning Commission except delete #4 and also limit the 25 space RV Park to dry camping spaces and approval from CDOT if needed. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

- Old Cow Town - Myron Smith Conditional Use request was discussed at the last Commissioners meeting. Pace and Joseph toured the facilities and have a better idea about the layout. The PC wanted all the plans for the development to be outlined. Attorney Hobbs commented that there existed the possibility that CDOT would require an access permit. Road and Bridge will bring the Road up to standard, and monitor any

increase in maintenance of the county road due to project traffic, and could require an impact fee. Special event permits for events drawing more than 100 people will be assessed during the annual review for frequency and impacts.

The conditions the Planning Commission set down were as follows:

1. No more than 40 overnight guests plus staff in the Town area.
2. Water permits may be required for Commercial Use
3. Approved Septic Systems
4. RV guests are for functions only not to exceed 100 (**DELETED by BOCC**)
5. Dust abatement must be addressed specifically
6. Special event permit must be applied for any quests over 100
7. Sound system must be tested for distance prior to use (Completed; reassess during live event.)
8. Additional structures would require that a modification application be submitted.
9. Fire protection regulations must be followed
10. Sprinkler system in each structure to be installed if need be
11. RV park must have its own septic system (**Amended to be dry camping by BOCC**)

Joseph moved to table the Conditional Use permit for Tony Ross on Baca Grande Chalet I, Lot 150 to collect more information. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

- Tony Ross, Baca Grande Chalet Unit One Lot 150 Conditional Use request for an additional/residence duplex. The Crestone/Baca Planning Commission reviewed this request on June 11, 2008 and has recommended approval with the following conditions bushes and trees to be added to the west side of the property to block neighbor view, building material must be removed from property by October 1, 2008, removal of dirt pile, terracing to be in place by October 1, 2008, retaining wall, terracing on the west wall of the building must be constructed, units to be limited to two couples only. Commissioner Spearman noted the 4 favorable Planning Commission votes, versus 1 opposing. Commissioner Joseph pointed out that significant ongoing public opposition suggests significant concerns have not yet been addressed. And, aside from the specifics of the application, approving this application is a change in long-standing agreements and practices between the County and Baca Grande POA of lot consolidation, reduction in density. Clarification is needed from the POA, as a courtesy in this issue of common interest. Maez will follow-up.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:10 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:10 P.M.

Randy Arredondo – Supervisor Road & Bridge and Land Fill:

- The sign on a corner of County Road T East at Pete Grover's land has not been removed as requested. Attorney Gibbons will send him a letter revoking his Conditional Use Permit.
- Toured the Schedule A roads around La Garita with BLM personnel and surveyed the weed situation. There is some cheat grass, so the regular maintenance will be suspended to keep from spreading the weeds. Meanwhile a spraying campaign will ensue and the situation will be evaluated again next year.
- Need to hire a new employee for the Sargents area, and will be advertising for the position.
- The new hot plant will be on line soon and some roads in the Baca Grande Subdivision will be done first. There maybe some work in the Town of Saguache also. The budget only allows for paving of the most heavily used roadways in need. After the paving is done Arredondo will buy and stockpile oil for next year at the locked in price.

Jeannie Norris - Social Services Director

- The month of May continued with seven active TANF clients, nine child-only cases and forty-five med-only and parent plus cases. Food stamp cases declined to 338 cases, old-age-pension dropped to 102 cases from 114, and we had 24 aid-to-the-needy-disabled cases.
- The Cheers Training Center had four adult basic education clients and one TANF client who currently working through the training modules.
- The Child Protection Unit had a lighter month than has been the base in recent months, with five referrals, all of which were accepted for investigation. The Unit has 15 open dependency and neglect court cases with 17 children in placement. The number of open child protection cases dropped by one, with 53 at the end of May. There were two open adult protection cases, and two cases were closed during the month.
- The Child Support Unit decreased by six cases since last month. They discover that collections are down, and more money is being collected from unemployment compensation benefits. We feel that this is indicative of current economic challenges.
- Approximately one half of our staff has received the upgraded CPR training provided through the Saguache Co. Nursing Service. We want our entire staff to

- be certified, and receive the current training, as several procedures have changed. We have also completed the Hepatitis A & B vaccination series so that our staff is immunized. We have clients who are active hepatitis patients, and come in contact occasionally with an infected person before we are aware. A few staff members lack only the Hepatitis B third booster to be given in December.
- The highly publicized statistics regarding an increase in child poverty in Colorado has prompted increased attention on medical coverage for children. Medicaid and CHP+ applications will now be completed in several locations, rather than just at DSS. We are being urged to process them as quickly as possible, and if erroneous information is given by a family, we can worry about recovery at a later time. Focus on fathers living in poverty and not being able to provide for their children is at the forefront of State attention. New emphases on training for fatherhood, employment issues and support groups for dads are in the roll-out stage and hopefully will provide useful tools to help dads learn to be positive role models in their children's lives.
 - The Interim Transit Authority met last week in addition to the SLV Directors, and signed contracts to resume transportation service in the Valley. At this point, there are several problems to be worked out which does not give a clear picture of what the result may be.
 - Social Services has almost completed the job descriptions for DSS employees using a uniform format. Some of our positions required revision, and several, including the director, had no job description at all.
 - DSS has not been able to schedule a TEFAP commodity distribution in over a quarter. We have received very little, and no meat items at all to distribute. During the visit of TEFAP representatives during the spring, we indicated our problem with having a small amount of food, and they assured us that more would be forthcoming. As of this time, we still do not have enough to distribute.

Break

Julie Nunley - Public Transportation report:

- Owner of the Alamosa Bus Company, a non-profit bus service for Veterans, Medicaid and insurance transportation, and The Loop – a for profit company. The Alamosa Bus also operates San Luis Valley Tours – a tourism transportation service. Discussed some of the issues surrounding launching the public transportation system and how it all can be organized.

Bill Paying

Joseph moved to adjourn at 3:12 P.M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted

Melinda Myers Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved July 8, 2008

Chairman of the Board

Attest

Commissioner

Commissioner